

Remarks

A copy of Applicants' declaration is transmitted herewith. The Office Action states that the declaration in the USPTO file was not signed by any of the inventors. Applicants' Attorney's file shows that a signed declaration was originally submitted with a Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8 on April 13, 2001 in response to a Notice to File Missing Parts. In reviewing this declaration in order to submit it in response to the Office Action, Applicants' attorney noticed that the citizenship of the inventor Joachim Kupe had been modified by hand, but had not been initialed or dated. Accordingly, the declaration submitted herewith has been re-executed by Mr. Kupe on even date herewith and the change in citizenship has been initialed and dated by Mr. Kupe.

The Office Action has withdrawn claims 13-14 and 28 from consideration, and Applicants have now canceled these claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 11-12, 24, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Stiles et al., but indicates that claims 6, 8-10, 18-23, and 25 are allowable (or would be allowable if rewritten in independent form). Applicants have effectively done this by incorporating the limitations of claim 6 into claim 1 and canceling claim 6. It was not necessary to cancel the other rejected claim because they now depend from an allowable claim 1 that now contains the limitations of claim 6. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and request early action toward that end.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is requested to contact Mr. Paul L. Marshall, who may be reached in the Troy, Michigan area at (248) 813-1240.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0831 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 12, 2004
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